

# **NEW APPLICATION**



Dallas Hammit, State Engineer Steve Boschen, Division Director

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

RECORVED

AZ CORP COMPANY

DOCKET CONTACK

2015 JUN 17 FM 3 02

Arizona Corporation Commission Office of Railroad Safety Attn: Chris Watson

1200 W Washington Street

Phoenix, AZ 85007

RR-02635B-15-0197

RE: APPLICATION TO INSTALL A NEW GRADE SEPARATED CROSSING AND REMOVE AN EXISTING PUBLIC AT-GRADE CROSSING

Project: CONSTRUCT BELL ROAD TRAFFIC INTERCHANGE

Location: US 60 (MP 143) and Bell Road (City of Surprise & Maricopa County, Arizona)

Federal Project # RARF-060-B-NFA ADOT Tracs # 060 MA 142 H848501C Remove crossing AAR/DOT # 025392A

RRMP: 0172.01

Install new grade-separated crossing

Arizona Corporation Commission

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**ORIGINAL** 

Mr. Watson,

This application is being submitted to allow the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to construct and maintain a new grade separated structure and to allow the BNSF Railway (BNSF) to remove an existing at-grade public crossing in the City of Surprise, Arizona.

### 1. Project Location and Description

The new Bell Road traffic Interchange will be located in approximately the same location as the existing Bell Road at-grade crossing, AAR/DOT #025392A. The new grade separations part of the US 60, Bell Road Traffic Interchange project for the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The entire project is located in Surprise, Arizona.

Plans call for ADOT to construct a new Bell Road bridge to travel over both Grand Avenue and the BNSF tracks. Traffic on Grand Avenue will no longer have to stop, and Grand will connect to the new Bell Road Bridge via on- and off-ramps traveling to and from Grand's center median area.

Additional improvements that will be completed as part of this project within BNSF Railway right-of-way include pier construction for the overpass bridge construction and utility relocations.

The existing at-grade crossing is under the jurisdiction of the City of Surprise, but will be transferred to ADOT in the near future to allow ADOT to construct the project. A Town

resolution in support of removing the at-grade crossing will be obtained and included as part of the executed ADOT/BNSF Construction & Maintenance Agreement.

The project will utilize a design-build delivery method and is currently in the procurement process. Construction is anticipated to begin in January of 2016. The anticipated construction duration is 18 months. Bell Road is within the limits of the BNSF Railway at-grade crossing. To facilitate construction activities to either side of the at-grade crossing, ADOT is requesting that the BNSF be allowed a minimum of 36 months to remove the at-grade crossing after issuing the order.

The project website is: <a href="http://www.azdot.gov/projects/phoenix-metro-area/us-60-">http://www.azdot.gov/projects/phoenix-metro-area/us-60-</a> (grand-avenue)-and-bell-road-interchange

### 2. Why the crossing is needed

The Final Design Concept Report entitled US 60; Grand Avenue, Bell Road Traffic Interchange was completed by the Arizona Department of Transportation in January 2015. The report identifies a new grade-separated crossing for Bell Road at US 60 (Grand Avenue) for the need to "eliminate vehicle conflicts with the BNSF Railway eastwest main line tracks."

The Design Concept Report can be accessed via the internet at:

<a href="http://azdot.gov/projects/phoenix-metro-area/us-60-(grand-avenue)-and-bell-road-interchange/documents/uR1]">http://azdot.gov/projects/phoenix-metro-area/us-60-(grand-avenue)-and-bell-road-interchange/documents/uR1]</a>

### 3. Construction Phasing

Construction is expected to begin in January of 2016. The new grade separation is planned to be constructed in phases. The first phase will temporarily widen Bell Road on the north side to accommodate two lanes in each direction within the north half of Bell Road. Before traffic can be shifted to the north, the existing at-grade railroad crossing will require modifications. Bell Road will be closed to traffic for 28 days to allow BNSF to complete modifications. When the modified crossing is open to traffic, work will begin on the south half of the grade separation. When complete, traffic will be shifted onto the newly constructed roadway while the north half of the grade separation is constructed. Traffic may continue to use the at-grade crossing until the project is complete. Once the grade separation is complete, and in service, the at-grade crossing may be removed. The ADOT contractor will coordinate and receive approval from the BNSF Railway to use the crossing during construction.

## 4. Maintenance of the grade separation

ADOT will be responsible for constructing and maintaining the Bell Road grade separation over the BNSF Railway right-of-way. BNSF Railway will be responsible for

modifying the at-grade crossing during construction, removing the at-grade crossing and maintaining their infrastructure.

### 5. Project Funding

The project is funded by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT).

This project is estimated to cost approximately \$66.6M. The portion of the bridge within BNSF Railway right-of-way estimated to cost \$3.4M. The BNSF Railway contribution to the project has not been finalized. The costs for modifications to the existing at-grade railroad crossing will be the responsibility of ADOT. The costs for removal of the at-grade crossing will be the responsibility of BNSF Railway.

- 6. Other information (based on typical Staff Data Requests):
  - CW1-1 2012 ADT for Bell Road crossing US 60: 44,100 vpd.
  - CW1-2 2014 Intersection LOS at Bell Road/Grand Avenue: LOS D
  - CW1-3 Past Traffic Studies: A Traffic Report for the project was finalized in January 2015.
  - CW1-4 Population: 2013 estimated population of City of Surprise is 123,546 persons (source: United states Census Bureau)
  - CW1-5 Existing Railroad Safety Devices: Bell Road at-grade crossing is currently protected by cantilevered flashing lights and gates for both directions of travel on Bell Road and the right turn lane from Westbound Grand Avenue.
  - CW1-6 Adjacent Public Crossings: The nearest public crossings of the BNSF Railway are as follows: (1) Dysart Road (DOT # 025393G); 0.5 miles to the southeast of Bell Road and is at-grade; (2) Greenway Road (DOT # 025651J), 1.50 miles to the southeast of Bell Road and is at-grade; (3) Meeker BLVD (DOT # 025583k), 1.87 miles to the northeast of Bell Road and is at-grade.
  - CW1-7 Grade Separation Study: The Final Design Concept Report, entitled US 60, Grand Avenue Bell Road Traffic Interchange (dated January 2015), recommends a grade-separation of Bell Road and BNSF Railway.
  - CW1-8 Grade Separation Cost: Cost of Entire project provided above.
  - CW1-9 Surrounding Zoning: Surrounding area is zoned for Light Industrial, Regional Commercial, and Planned Area Development (source: City of Surprise)
  - CW1-10 Existing Train Movements: Per FRA website based on 2014 information, 11 freight trains per day. All train movements are thru movements.
  - CW1-11 Nearest Schools: (1) West Point Elementary School: southwest of crossing (16551 North Dysart Road, Surprise, AZ 0.6 mi SE); (2) Valley Vista High School (15550 North Parkview Place, Surprise, AZ 2.2 mi SW) (3) Surprise

Elementary School 1.4 Miles SE (12907 West Greenway Road El Mirage, Arizona 85335)

- CW1-12 Nearest Hospitals: (1) Banner Del E Webb Medical Center 14502 West Meeker Boulevard, Sun City West, AZ 85375 1.9 mi (2) Northwest VA Health Care Clinic 13985 West Grand Avenue #101, Surprise, AZ 85374
- CW1-13 Railroad Costs: To be determined
- CW1-14 Hazardous Materials traffic: yes but It is not known how much hazardous materials traffic uses the existing crossing each day.
- CW1-15 Speed Limit: Bell Road has a posted speed limit of 45 mph.
- CW1-16 School bus use: estimated 19 per day
- CW1-17 Other bus use: Unknown.
- CW1-18 Abandoned Railroad Spurs: Unknown if railroad spurs have been removed within a 10 mile radius.
- CW1-19 Summary of FHWA grade separation guidelines: Does not apply. This crossing will be grade separated.
- CW1-20 Expected traffic delay due to train traffic: Does not apply. This crossing will be grade separated.

Sincerely,

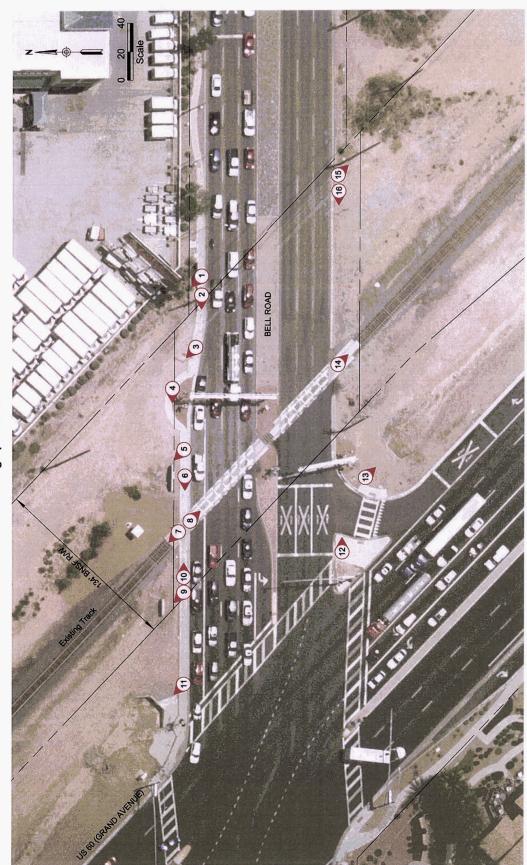
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Utility Engineering Coordinator/ Railroad Liaison 205 S 17TH AVE, MD 618E PHOENIX, AZ 85007 602.712.7555



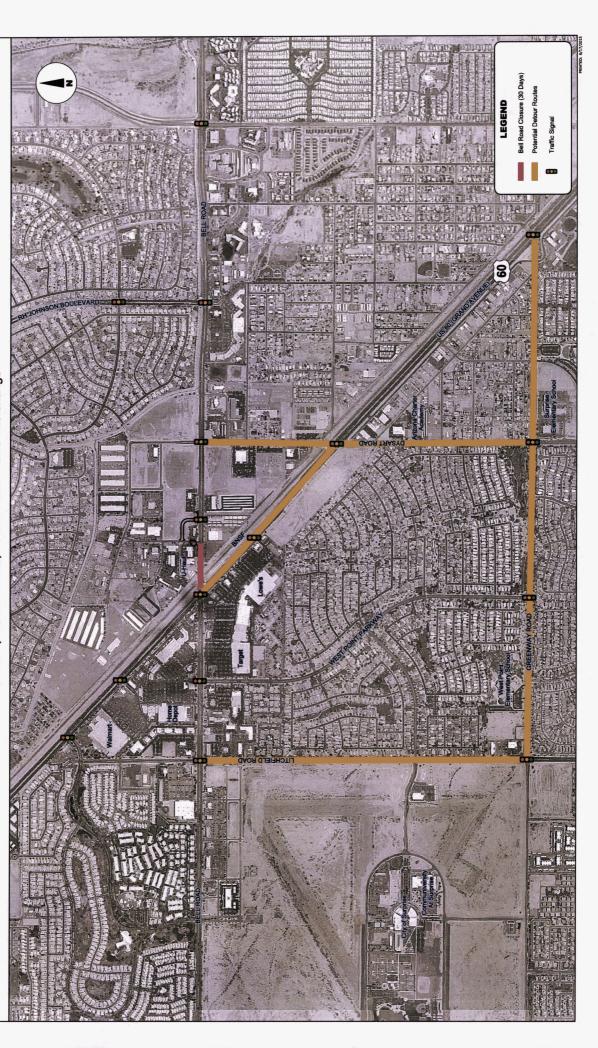
# Photograph Locations



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BELL ROAD CLOSURE
US 60 (Grand Avenue) / Bell Road Traffic Interchange

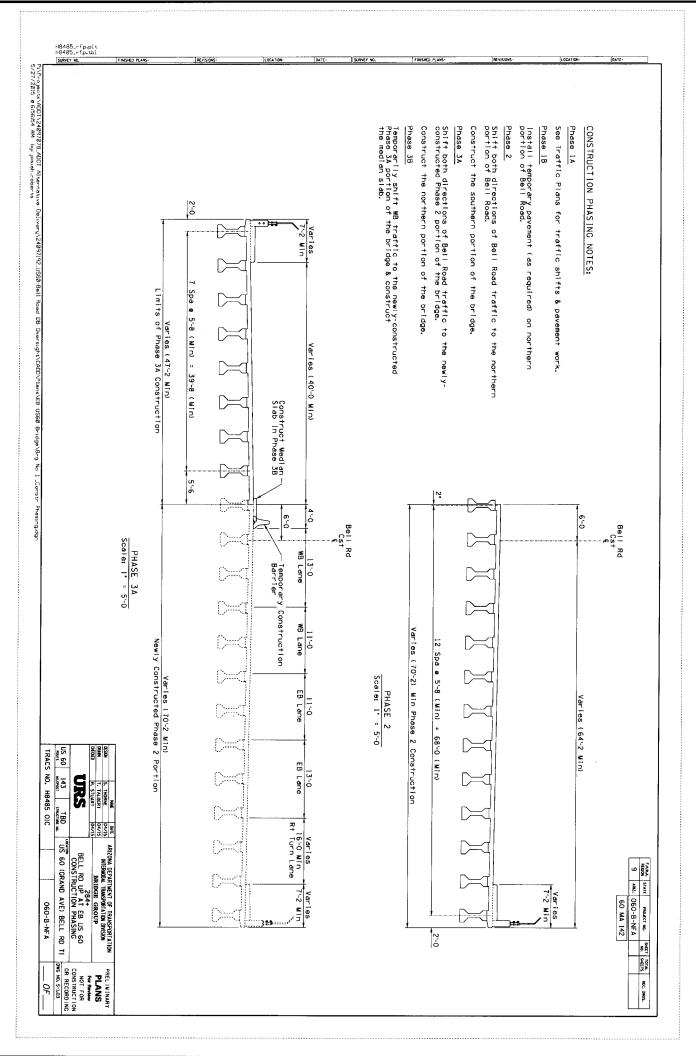


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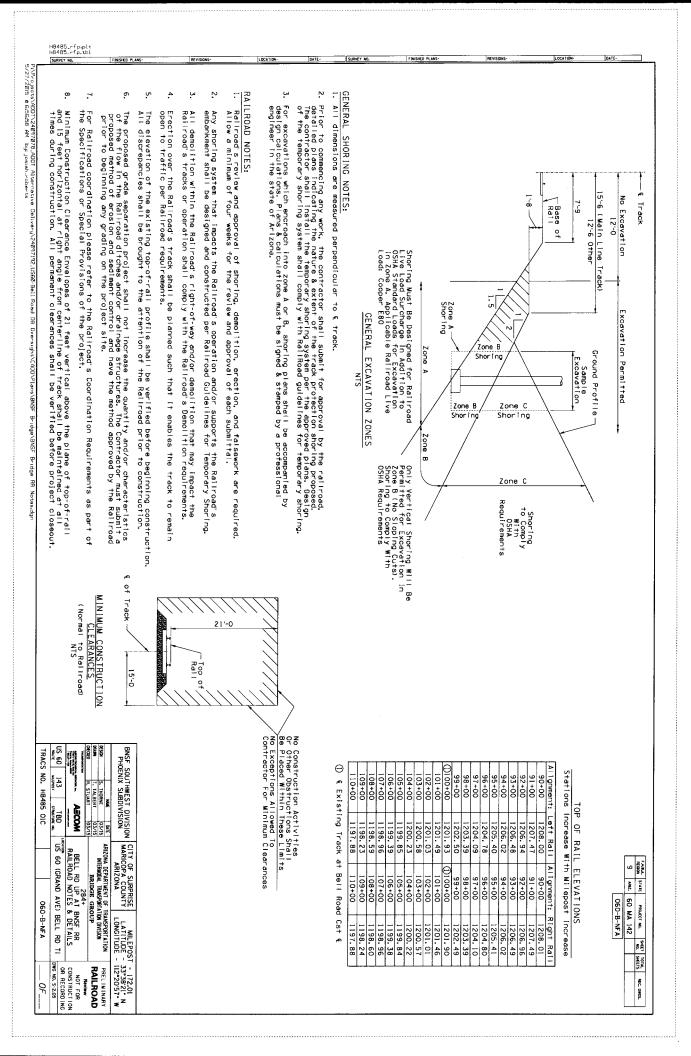
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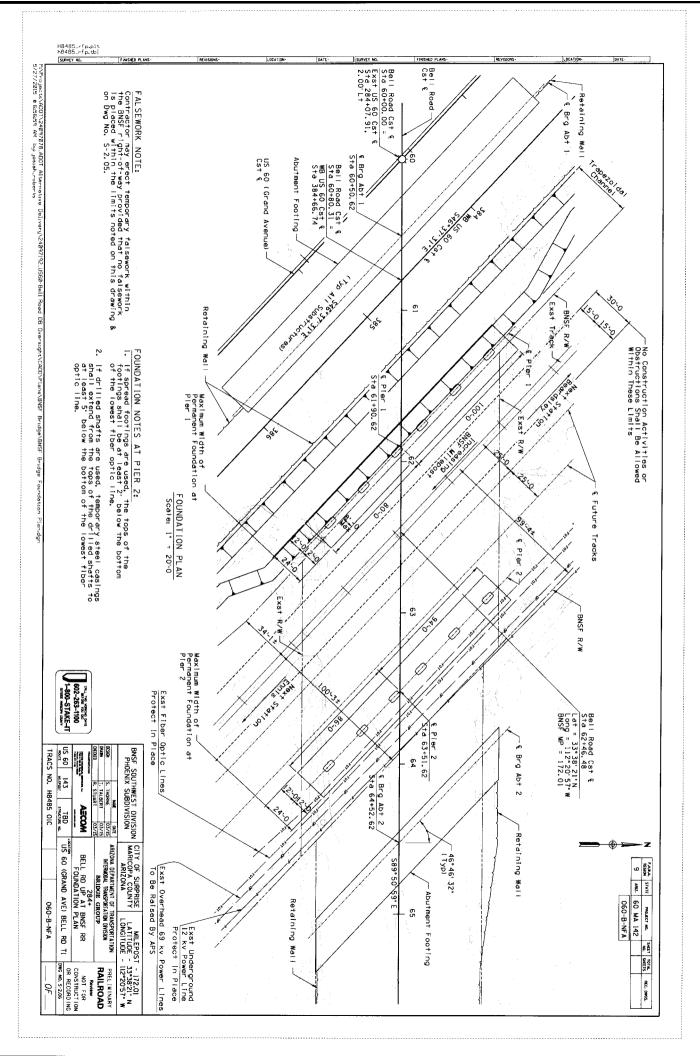
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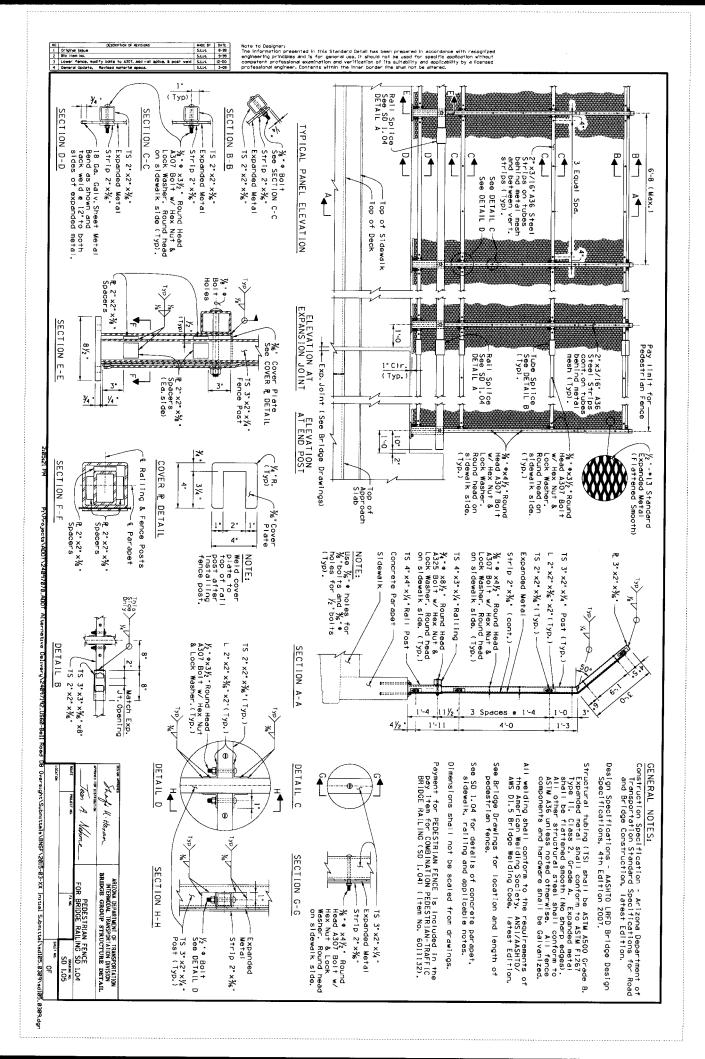
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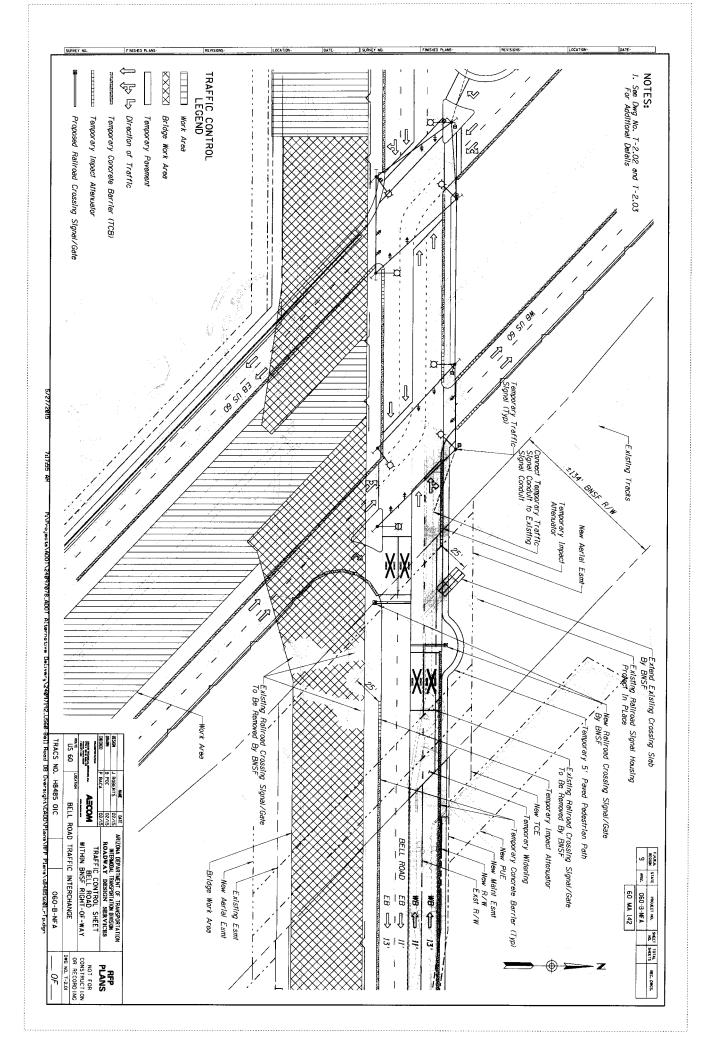


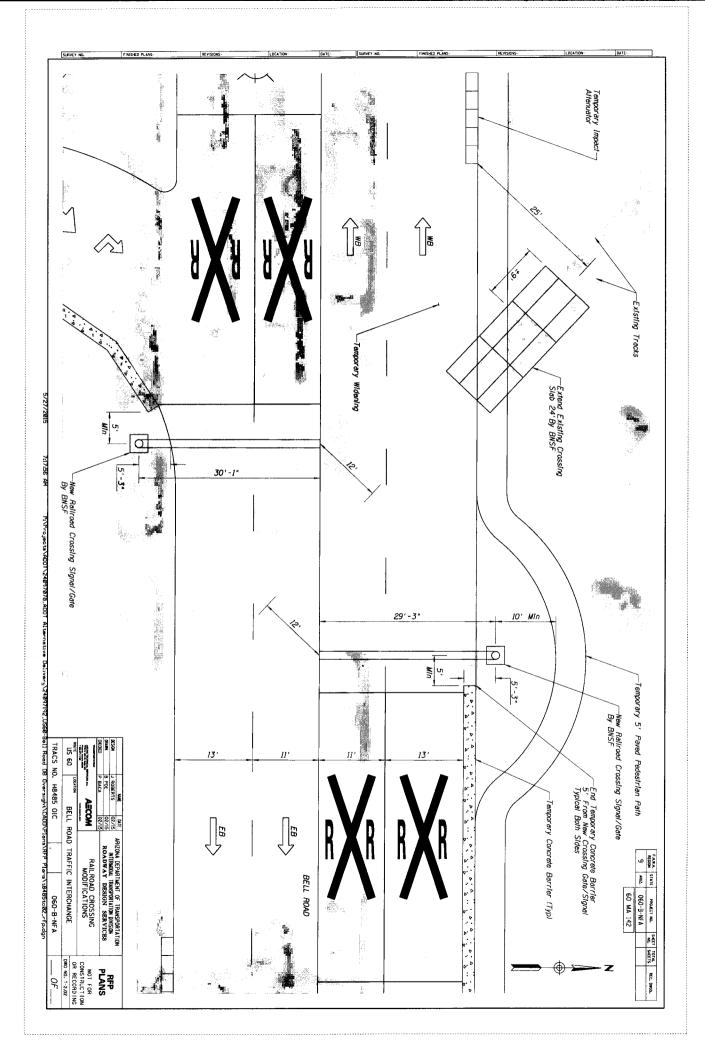
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BELL RD TYPICAL SECTION

